

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054684
ORIGIN USIA-15

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DRAFTED BY: USIA:IMV:C:JWMENDENHALL
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P 111902Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

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EO 11652 N/A

SUBJECT: U.S. FILM RETROSPECTIVE

REFERENCE: BERLIN 5412 (U)

FOR P AND C

1. THIS FOLLOWS PARAGRAPH FIVE REFTEL REQUESTING STATUS CURRENT
IMV ACTIVITIY RELATIVE SUBJECT RETROSPECTIVE.

2. IMV AND IEU OFFICERS ARE PLEASED TO LEARN EMBASSY HAS SUCCEDED
IN CONTACTING PROMISING SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY
OF GERMAN LANGUAGE U.S. FEATURE FILMS.

3; AS SOON AS QUESTION OF GERMAN VERSIONS, ADMISSION CHARGES,
THEATER SITE AND APPROXIMATE DATE FOR EVENT ARE RESOLVED, IMV
IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN CONTACTS WITH MPAA AND MEMBER COMPANIES
ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO USE OF SPECIFIC FEATURES.

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4. MEANWHILE, UNDERSTAND IOA/SF NEEDS REPLY QUESTIONS RAISED
WITH P AND C ALEXANDER WHEN IN WASHINGTON RELATIVE 35MM PROJECTOR
INSTALLATION. THEY NEED DISTANCE TO SCREEN AND SIZE OF SCREEN
THAT WILL BE USED IN YOUR FACILITY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE CORRECT
35MM PROJECTOR LENSES, WHICH CAN BE AIRSHIPPED. YOU MAY WISH
KNOW PROJECTORS ARE READY AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABOARD SHIP

ABOUT MARCH 25.

5. WHEN YOUR 35MM EQUIPMENT IS OPERATIONAL, A 35MM SHOW PRINT OF MEL BROOKS' SILENT MOVIE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INVITATIONAL SCREENING. THIS FILM JUST RETURNED FROM SHOWINGS PEKING, MOSCOW AND BUCHAREST (ALSO PRAGUE IN 16MM) WHERE IT PLAYED WITH "GREAT SUCCESS". IMV COULD ALSO PROVIDE PROGRAM OF 35MM PRINTS OF OUTSTANDING SPORTS FILMS (ABOUT 2 HOURS), WHICH HAVE RECEIVED FESTIVAL HONORS ABROAD. THESE FILMS ALSO ESPECIALLY SUITED TO PRESTIGIOUS INVITED AUDIENCES. THEY ARE NON-POLITICAL AND MOST HAVE NO DIALOGUE, OBVIATING LANGUAGE PROBLEMS. THEY COVER SUBJECTS FROM MOUNTAIN CLIMBING AND RODEGS TO HANG GLIDING, APPEALING TO A BROAD AUDIENCE SPECTRUM. THESE CINE SHORT SUBJECT FILMS AND/OR SILENT MOVIE COULD BE "CURTAIN RAISERS" FOR THE COMING U. S. FILM RETROSPECTIVE. ADVISE IF INTERESTED.

6. RE: CAPRA PROGRAM: SINCE USIS ROME HAS COMPLETED ITALIAN VERSION OF IMV SERIES FRANK CAPRA: THE MAN ABOVE THE TITLE AND IS FORMULATING DETAILED PLANS FOR PROGRAMMING CAPRA SEVERAL CITIES IN ITALY DURING LATE APRIL, IT IS APPARENT HE CANNOT CONSIDER A VISIT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY UNTIL MID-MAY AT EARLIEST. FYI: CAPRA ADVISED IMV MARCH 2 HE MUST RESTRICT HIS OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS TO ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME OF VISITS OF NOT MORE THAN ONE WEEK OR TEN DAYS. AFTER EACH OF THESE HE MUST RETURN TO THE U. S. FOR MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS.

7. IF FOR SOME UNFORESEEN REASON CAPRA VISIT TO EAST BERLIN TURNS OUT TO BE NOT FEASIBLE AND THE EMBASSY IS INTERESTED IN USING THE IMV CAPRA SERIES (FRANK CAPRA: THE MAN ABOVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TITLE) AND THE CAPRA FEATURE FILMS (MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN, MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON, LOST HORIZON) AVAILABLE IN BOTH 16MM AND 35MM AND THE EMBASSY WOULD WISH TO PROGRAM A SPEAKER WITH THESE MATERIALS, YOU ARE REMINDED DR. JOHN B. KUIPER WHO APPEARS IN THE SERIES WITH CAPRA WILL BE IN EUROPE AND HAS INDICATED HE COULD COME TO EAST BERLIN IN EARLY JUNE. ALTERNATIVELY A FILM SPECIALIST (DR. EDGAR BREITENBACH - FLUENT IN GERMAN) COULD BE INVITED AT ALMOST ANY TIME, BUT THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE EXPENSE OF TRAVEL FROM THE U. S. DR. ROBERT WAGNER, WHO ALSO APPEARS IN THE CAPRA SERIES, AND WHO WAS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SPECIAL FILM EXPERT IN PARA. 8, STATE 032617 (C), RECENTLY ADVISED IMV HE WILL BE IN EUROPE IN EARLY JUNE, AND THUS COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING IN MID TO LATE MAY.

8. THE EMBASSY IS REMINDED ALSO THAT FILM DIRECTOR FRED ZINNEMANN (HIGH NOON-1952, FROM HERE TO ETERNITY-1953, OKLAHOMA-1955, A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS-1966, ETC., ETC.) IS USUALLY WORKING IN LONDON, HAS PREVIOUSLY COOPERATED WITH USIA, AND COULD PERHAPS COME TO EAST BERLIN. P AND C ALEXANDER ALSO

EXPRESSED INFORMAL INTEREST IN DIRECTOR BILLY WILDER (LOST WEEKEND-1945, SUNSET BOULEVARD-1950, THE APARTMENT-1960, SEVEN YEAR ITCH-1955, SOME LIKE IT HOT-1959, ETC., ETC.) AS A BASIS FOR YOUR RETROSPECTIVE. PARTICIPATION OF ZINNEMANN WOULD PROBABLY ONLY INVOLVE TRAVEL EXPENSE FROM LONDON, WHEREAS WILDER MOST LIKELY FROM CALIFORNIA. IMV PREPARED ASSIST WITH CONTACT EITHER OF THESE IMPORTANT DIRECTORS WHEN QUESTIONS AND DETAILS AFFECTING RETROSPECTIVE RESOLVED.

9. AS A MATTER OF INTEREST, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO KNOW AGENCY HAS ORGANIZED SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO COORDINATE PROGRAM RELATING TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES, IN WHICH EMBASSY EARLIER EXPRESSED INTEREST. IT IS IMV JUDGMENT THOUGH THAT IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE SOME MONTHS AWAY, AND WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED. MEANWHILE GIVEN RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS AFFECTING YOUR RETROSPECTIVE IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE ORGANIZE YOUR EVENT AROUND OBSERVANCE ACADEMY ANNIVERSARY IF SUITABLE
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GERMAN LANGUAGE FILMS AVAILABLE, AND THIS IS DIRECTION YOU WISH TO TAKE.

10. IEU DESK OFFICER PLANS MARCH 11 TELEPHONE P AND C ALEXANDER TO DETERMINE PROGRESS AT POST. VANCE

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